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A
CORPORATION

Humbly Propos'd,
For *Relieving, Reforming, and*
Employing the POOR.

Herein

There will be more PRIVATE GAIN to the
SUBSCRIBERS, and more PUBLICK
GOOD to Great Britain, than by All Un-
parliamentary Subscriptions already taken.

IN A
LETTER
TO A

Justice of Peace of Middlesex.

L O N D O N :

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(Price Four Pence)



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S I R,

I Did some time since inform you, that many Eminent Citizens (in behalf of themselves, and many Hundred more) had sign'd a *Petition* to the *Lord Mayor* and *Court of Aldermen*, setting forth,

That they had engag'd in a very Charitable and Beneficial Design, comfortably to Maintain all the Impotent Poor; judiciously to Employ all the Capable Poor; and, to take, in their humble Opinions, the most probable Methods for Reforming the Profligate Poor; and gradually to sink our Poor-Rates— But first to begin with the Bills of Mortality. — And all this to be perform'd under the Authority of one New, hop'd for, General Law, instead of near Forty Statutes now in force, relating to the Premises— That those Petitioners thought themselves, in Duty bound, to communicate such their good Intentions to his Lordship, and his Worshipful Brethren, humbly hoping, that they will not only herewith concur, but that his Lordship, and his Brethren will appear the most Zealous, and at the Head of this Charitable Design.

Those Petitioners therefore pray, that they may have an opportunity to lay the Substance of this propos'd Scheme [for Relieving, and Employing the Poor] before that Court, or such as that Court shall

appoint, to be so corrected, as, upon mature Consideration, shall appear to be most Reasonable and Just.

Sir, Having consider'd, that those Petitioners do humbly propose, First, to put this Scheme in practice *only* for the *Bills of Mortality*, and perceiv'ing, that, at least, three parts in four of those Poor are, more immediately, under the Authority of the Justices of Peace for *Westminster, Middlesex and Surry*; I thought proper to communicate this charitable and beneficial Design to you, to be communicated, if you shall think proper, to your Brethren, the Justices for *Middlesex, Westminster and Surry*; not doubting, but all those Gentlemen will appear very Zealous in promoting this Proposal, if it shall appear to them to be, for the general Good of both King and Kingdom.

Sir, Those Petitioners declare themselves ready to advance several Millions Sterling, in such proportions as shall be thought necessary, to promote this Glorious Design, if His Majesty will be Graciously pleas'd to grant unto them a Charter of Incorporation, for *Relieving, Reforming, and Employing all the Poor of Great Britain*, by such Name, or Stile, and under such Conditions, and Qualifications, as in His Royal Wisdom shall seem most meet;— For those Petitioners shall then rest assured, That both *Lords and Commons*, the next Sessions, will pass such a Bill, (relating to those Petitioners) as shall give them all due Encouragements, vigorously to prosecute this Great Design, which may probably advance His Majesty's Glory above all Crowns in *Christendom*, and universally promote *Great Britain's common Good*.

Sir,

Sir, There are now in force above thirty Statutes for *Settling, Relieving, Punishing, and Employing the Poor* — And the principal Intents and Purposes of those numerous Laws are Four, *viz.*

First, Comfortably to Maintain all those whose Infancy, Age or Infirmities, render them incapable of Labour; so that no poor *Briton*, may be then oblig'd, or permitted to beg.

Secondly, To Reform the profligate Poor.

Thirdly, In the most beneficial manner, for *Great Britain's common Good*, to employ all the capable Poor, so that the *Industrious* may never want Work, and the *Lazy Poor*, may be compell'd to Labour: — And,

Lastly, To reduce our Payments to the *Poor*, which, in all respects consider'd, are suppos'd to be Fifteen Hundred Thousand Pounds *per Ann.* Charge to *Great Britain*.

But, notwithstanding those numerous Laws, and this vast *annual* Expence to the Poor, neither of the before-mention'd good Intentions [relating to the Poor] are effectually answer'd: For,

First, Many Thousand *Impotent* Poor, must now *beg, steal or starve*, because their Parish-Allowances are not sufficient to support Nature: — And,

Secondly, The profligate *Poor*, are so far from being Reform'd, that they rather grow daily more and more Vitious; and, I believe, it would be very difficult for all the County Goals, and *Bridewells* in *England*, to produce ten Persons by them Reform'd — For daily experience proves, that those Places rather harden, than reform those Criminals; for young Criminals, upon their first Commitments, contract acquaintance

tance with experienc'd Villains, who readily instruct them how to defend themselves against their first Charge, and give them devilish Instructions, how to carry on their cursed Trade with greater Cunning, and less Danger: — And there is one thing (relating to those Criminals) which is very Melancholly to consider, and that is this, viz.

When a young Man, or Woman, is once become *Infamous*, he is under a natural necessity of *Stealing* or *Starving*. — For, being *young*, no Person will give them Money; and being *Infamous*, no Person will Employ them; and yet, whilst they *Live*, they *must have the necessary Support of Life*; and no Person upon Earth can suffer himself to *Starve*, if that can be prevented by *Stealing*, tho' Death were to be the certain Punishment thereof; because *Starving* is a thousand times more painful than *Hanging*. — I hope no Man will think that I do hereby justify those Villains, for bringing themselves under those most deplorable Circumstances: But, with all humble submission, I think no Man, Woman, or Child, should be under a natural Necessity of *Stealing* or *Starving*, but that proper Places should be prepar'd, for receiving such Infamous Persons, &c. and proper Employments should be there adapted to all Capacities; and such Infamous Persons, as appear unwilling to go to those Places to be employ'd, should be there sent by proper Authority, and there confin'd, and employ'd, until they had, by an habitual Industry, brought forth those proper Fruits of Repentance, as might reasonably entitle them to their Liberty, with a proper Testimonial of their Reformation. — And this will be

be done, as one of the many happy Consequences of this intended Scheme, for *Relieving, Reforming, and Employing the Poor*.— And,

Thirdly, All our *Capable Poor* are not now constantly employ'd, because many Thousands, who desire to Work, are forc'd to be Idle, for want of Employment,— and many more Thousands are permitted to live in Idleness, by *Begging* or *Thieving*, or *Whoreing*, or some other vitious Practices — whereas every days Labour lost, is a proportional Loss to the Nation ; and were all the *Industrious Poor* constantly employ'd, and all the *Lazy Poor*, by proper Encouragements or Corrections, brought to Labour, several Millions *per Ann.* might be then added to our National Wealth.—And,

Lastly, Our *Poor-Rates* are so far from being lessen'd, that in some Places they are become double to what they were Twenty Years past.

Sir, These Subscribers humbly propose to Maintain all the *Impotent Poor*, and to Employ all the *Capable Poor*, and to use the most probable Methods to reform the *Profligate Poor*, and gradually to sink our *Poor-Rates*.— And they will be content to abate, the first Year one sixth part of the *Poor-Rates*, which were paid between *Ladyday 1719*, to *Ladyday 1720* ; and at the end of Six Years, they will be oblig'd to abate one other sixth part of those *Poor-Rates*,— So that at the end of six Years, one third of the *Poor-Rates* will be abated — And those Subscribers will not desire any *Poor-Rates*, until they have provided proper Places for *Relieving, Maintaining, and Employing* all the *Poor* within the *Bills of Mortality*.— But they desire, from their first Establishment, to have Liberty to collect the Charities

Charities of well dispos'd Christians, of all Perswasions, towards carrying on this great Design. —

And they desire to be *annually* accountable to the *Parliament*, or to such a Subordinate Authority as the Legislature shall appoint, for all their *Receipts* and *Disbursements*. —

Sir, There are three Considerations, relating to the *Capable Poor*, which being put together, the last is very amazing, *viz.*

First, That every Kingdom and State which is *Rich* and *Powerful*, is *so made* by the *Art* and *Industry* of the *Capable Poor*.

Secondly, That no Kingdom, or State in the *World*, (in their present *Religious* and *Political* Circumstances consider'd) can make *numbers* of *People* so profitable as *Great Britain* may do. — But notwithstanding this second Truth, that which follows is astonishing: For, in *Fact*.

Thirdly, No Kingdom, or State in *Christendom* pays *half that Charge*, to Maintain their *Capable Poor*, which *Great Britain* now pays, in their *Poor-Rates*, and *Occasional Charities*, for both these, are reasonably believ'd to amount unto *Fifteen Hundred Thousand Pounds per Ann.*

Sir, That every Kingdom, and State, which is *Rich* and *Powerful* is, for those *Riches*, and that *Power*, principally indebted (humanly speaking) to the *Art* and *Industry* of their *Capable Poor*, is a Truth, that no Man, whose Judgment deserves regard, will deny. — And that *Great Britain* may reap more *Riches* and *Power*, from their *Capable Poor*, than any other Kingdom or State can do, will plainly appear to those Gentlemen, who shall seriously consider, That,

Great

Great Britain is blest with *such*, and so many *Natural* and *Political* Advantages, as render it much happier, in all respects consider'd, than any other Kingdom, or State in *Christendom*. For,

Our Climate is moderate; not subject to those extreams of *Heat* and *Cold*, which too often afflict some neighbour Nations. Our Island is by Nature protected, from that dangerous and powerful Element, which too often overflows our opposite Neighbours. Our *Sea-Coasts* enrich'd, with inexhaustible *Treasures* of *Fish*, for some of which, our *Industrious* Neighbours Sail more than One Hundred Leagues. And of this we have sufficient to answer, the *superstitious Demands*, of all *Papists* Kingdoms and States. Our Anchorage much better than our Neighbours, and our Harbours the best in *Christendom*, and in the Center, for the Trade of *Europe*. When Winds, or Frost, keep in our opposite Neighbours, our Ships are free to supply some Foreign Markets. We have natural and annual Productions, of all Things necessary for Food and Raiment, and for most other Necessaries and Conveniences of Life. And in these great Blessings (when all respects are consider'd, we far exceed; all other Kingdoms and States in *Europe*. For in many parts of this Island, we have more sorts of *Rich Minerals*, than any neighbouring Nation can produce. The Bowels of our Land, are also enrich'd, with many sorts of good Stones, and very useful for many excellent Purposes. And our Lands produce several sorts of rich *Marle*, good for *Mannure*; and our *Sea-Coasts* afford both *Sands* and *Weeds*, proper for improvement of Land; and for that Purpose,

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sometimes carry'd near Twenty Miles. We have great Quantities of Clay, of divers Sorts, and very necessary and profitable, when manufactur'd, into such kinds of Ware, as each sort is fittest for. We have vast Quantities of Coals, of divers sorts, and the best (for all uses consider'd) that are in *Christendom*. We have the best Oak for Ships in the World, and (if great Encouragements were given, for *Planting* such) we might therewith supply our selves, and Neighbours. We have many other sorts of Timber and Wood, very good for many necessary Purposes. We have the best Horses in the World, (for all Purposes consider'd, viz.) for War, Saddle, Swiftness, Carriage, Draught, and all other Services, for which that useful Creature was intended. Of most kinds of Beasts, and Birds, proper for Food, we have (all sorts consider'd) the best in *Europe*. Our Island doth annually produce more, and much better *Wool* (for all uses consider'd) than any other Nation in the World. We have more Manufactures (all kinds consider'd) than any other *Kingdom* or *State* in *Christendom*. But that which makes all those Natural and Civil Advantages, much more valuable to us, than they would be to any other Kingdom in the World, is the *Happiness* of our Constitution, which protects both *Person* and *Property*, against all arbitrary Attacks, from the Crown. And this *Protection*, must naturally give much greater Encouragement, to *Art* and *Industry*, than where all natural and civil Enjoyments are precarious, and held only during the Will of the Sovereign.

Romish Superstition, doth not now rob us, of so much Time, as our Popish Neighbours are forbid to

to work; and this *Prohibition* the *Pope* doth impose, with a *Non Obstante* to God's Authority, who hath positively commanded us, *therein to Obey*. —

Many more, both *natural* and *civil* Advantages, I could name. But I will now give some few Instances, of the prodigious Gains, which may be the happy Effects, of Numbers of People, when well instructed, and well employ'd. And I will begin with what relates to our most valuable, staple Commodity of *Wool*; in which, if *One Hundred Pounds* be laid out, and that *Wool* manufactur'd, for the *Turkey Market*, and the return thereof made, in *Raw-Silk*, and that *Raw-Silk* again here manufactur'd, into what is most proper for the *Spanish, Portugal, and West India Markets*; the returns thereof may probably be, above *Five Thousand Pounds*, in *Gold and Silver*, which is fifty Times the prime Cost of that *Wool*.

One Hundred Pounds laid out in *Wool*, and that *Wool* manufactur'd, into what is most proper for our *Plantation-Trade*, and the return thereof made in our best *Plantation-Cotton*, and that *Cotton Manufactured*, and sold in some proper Foreign Market, and the return thereof made, in what may be most profitable to the Nation; and *Great Britain's* gains, from that last mention'd *Hundred Pounds* worth of *Wool* (as above circulated in Trade) may be *five Thousand Pounds*, which is fifty Times the prime Cost of that *Wool*.

Ten Pounds laid out in *Iron* (where it is first made, from the *Iron-stone*) and that *Iron* manufactur'd, into what may be most profitable in a Foreign Market, and that *Manufacture* there sold, and the returns thereof made, in what

may be most profitable to the Merchant ; and those returns, may probably amount unto *One Thousand Pounds* ; which is *one Hundred times* the prime Cost of that *Ten Pounds worth* of Iron. And *Steel* (which is made of *Iron*) is capable of being made *Three Hundred and Sixty Times*, dearer than *Gold*, weight for weight. For if six new *Pendulum Springs*, were (by some of our best *Watch-makers*) to be put into six very valuable *Gold Watches* (whose *Pendulum Springs* were broke) those Artists, would deserve *three Pounds*, that is, *Ten Shillings* for putting in each Spring. And these six Springs, shall weigh but *one Grain*, which in *Gold*, is worth but *Two Pence*; but in *Steel* (when as above apply'd) comes to *Three Pounds*, which is *three Hundred and Sixty Two Pence*.

Bounty and Industry are in nothing more valuable and necessary, than in *Husbandry and Gardening*. For, in *Husbandry*, less than one peck of *Wheat* hath actually produc'd, in one Acre, and one Year, *Two Hundred and Forty Bushels*. — This will not appear incredible to those, who know, that one Grain of *Wheat*, at once setting, hath actually produc'd above *Two Thousand Grains*; and one Grain of *Barley*, hath actually produc'd above *Five Thousand Grains*. — One Acre of *Gardening Ground* judiciously manur'd, is capable of producing a greater Burden or Weight, of good Nourishment for Man and Beast, than one Hundred Acres of some *Meadow Ground*, worth *Forty Shillings per Acre per Ann.* can produce in *Hay and Grass*; and more than *Two Hundred Acres* of *Pasture*, worth *Ten Shillings per Acre per Ann.* and more than *Two Thousand Acres* of *Moorish*,

Moorish, unimprov'd Land, do annually produce. — For, one Acre of good Gardening Ground is capable, of producing in one Year, near Three Hundred Thousand weight, of good Nourishment for both Man and Beast; but such great Improvements in Husbandry and Gardening, require the most proper manner, and a very judicious, and an Industrious Application. —

And I can, (and am ready) to discover, How Two Hundred Thousand Men, Women and Children, of our now miserable, chargeable, criminal, and unprofitable Poor Britons (all which do not add One Penny to our National Wealth; but, on the contrary, impoverish their Native Country) may be made (within few Years) worth above Two Millions Sterling per Ann. to the Land of their Nativity; and this to be done in such a manner, as shall advance every general Interest, of both Land and Trade, and not injure any National Interest whatsoever. And our Fishery, and what relates thereunto, might also employ five Hundred Thousand Men, Women, and Children.

Those before mention'd, and many more Considerations, which I could name, put us under a Capacity, of making Numbers of People, much more beneficial to Great Britain, than they can be made, in neighbouring Nations, where the Prince, by his Arbitrary Power, and Superstitious Priests, by their Pious Frauds, deprive industrious People, of a great part of their Property and Time. Both which, put Art and Industry under very great Discouragements.

But all those before-mention'd natural and political Advantages, which put us in a Capacity, of being Richer, Stronger, and Happier than our Neigh-

Neighbours, will not *Actually* make us more *Rich and Powerful*, than Neighbour-Nations *Unless* to that *Capacity*, we do farther add, an *industrious, and judicious Application*, each *Man, Woman, and Child* (of *Capacity*, in his, and her, respective *Station*. For a *Judicious Ant.* or hath well observ'd, That

The principal *Happiness* of every *Kingdom and State*, consists (not so much in *natural Productions*, as) in this (*viz.*) That in the whole *Subordination*, from *Head to Foot* (from the *Supream Magistrate*, to the meanest *Servant*) All *Persons* be duly qualified for, and diligently exercis'd in, that *Station, or Business*, whereunto they do respectively belong.

Our neighbouring *States* have given a demonstrative *Proof* of this *Truth*. For, notwithstanding the smallness of their *Territories* (in comparison of some neighbouring *Kingdoms*) and notwithstanding the many *Difficulties*, and heavy *Impositions*, their *People* are subject to; yet by great *Frugality*, and an *industrious and judicious Application*, they make *Nature* submit to *Art*; and therefore now are, and for an *Age* past, have been, a very *Rich and Powerful Common-Wealth*.

In 1669. All their *Subjects*, of both *Sexes* and all *Ages*, were return'd to be, *Two Millions four Hundred, and fifty Thousand Souls*. And of these, *four Hundred and fifty Thousand*, were said to depend upon their *Fishery*, and the many *Trades*, which relate thereunto, which *Trades*, in number, are about *Forty*, and in many of which, *Children*, from *four Years* of *Age*, and the *Blind and Lane*, are employ'd. And I could propole a way, how any *Person*, past, *Twelve Years* of *Age*, that had neither *Eye*, nor *Hand*, and but one *Foot*, by the motion of that *Foot*, twelve

Hours

Hours in a Day, and without much force, should get, six Pence *per* Day, at least, which is double to what his Maintenance should then cost, and yet he should be comfortably maintain'd.

That condemn'd Criminal, of sound Limbs and between *Twelve*, and *Thirty* Years of Age, whom we now send to the Plantations, and pay, about four Pounds for his Passage, may be made, in my humble Opinion, more worth to Great Britain, than fifty Pound, in broad Gold; and be put under such probable Circumstances of Reformation, as we can never expect, from our Plantations; where the most considerable Planters, refuse to receive those Convicts, lest they should make their *Negro-slaves*, more vitious, than by Nature, they are inclin'd to be.

And that Method, which, I do humbly suppose, would reform such Convicts, I do intend shortly to print in a little Tract by it self, only I shall now desire all Gentlemen to consider, that every Person may be consider'd in a *Two-fold* Capacity, viz. as a *Christian*, and as a Member of a Community — As a *Christian*, nothing can reform him, but what shall change both *Mind* and *Manners*, and nothing can do that, but that Grace which God alone can give — But such a Member of the Community, which by Robberies and Thefts, and other vitious Practices was a charge and a plague to the Publick, may be so far reform'd, and made serviceable, as to be made to earn thrice the charge of his Maintenance, and thereby made beneficial to the State, and effectually restrain'd from following his former vitious Practices — And this is that *Reformation*, which I do principally intend by this Discourse.

When

When a new-born Child is dropt in a Parish, Forty Shillings is, by that Parish, now offer'd, to discover, who dropt it, so that the Parish may be freed from that Charge, which now attends such an Accident.

Whereas such a Child (in Truth) might be made, an additional Treasure, to their Parish-Stock. For every poor *Woman*, which bears a Child (under a probability of Living) brings to her Native Country, a more valuable Treasure, than Ten Pounds Sterling. And were it possible for us to purchase, Ten Millions of Children, at Ten Pounds per Head, we should thereby purchase (what in Twenty Years) might put us in a Capacity, of giving Laws to all Europe. For,

Numbers of People, well instructed, well employ'd, and well maintain'd, become the Riches, Strength, and Glory of a Nation.

But on the contrary,

Numbers of People, bred up, in Ignorance, Idleness, and Misery, and corrupted with Disloyalty, and many other Vices; become a Scandal, and a Shame, to their Native Country, and a Charge, to their Government, which they put under a necessity of keeping an Army, in constant pay, to prevent, or suppress their rebellious Insolencies: For, such a seditious, and vitious Populace, are proper'd, and probable Instruments, for disguis'd Jesuits; and popular, but disaffected Statesmen, to bring about their Treasonable Designs. And such a miserable, vitious, Ignorant and Seditious Commonalty, may become (without a Reformation) both a Moral, and a Natural Cause, of the Destruction of that Church and State, under which they live.

Sir,

Sir, I shall now beg leave, to give an abstract Account of the many National Benefits, which may be the probable Effects of establishing this propos'd Corporation.

First, All Poor *Britons*, who through Infancy, Age, or Infirmities, are incapable of Labour, will be *then* comfortably maintain'd, and none of those then oblig'd, or permitted to beg.

Secondly, All the Children of the Poor, will be *then* Bred up, Bound out, and Set up, without new Charge to the Publick, or their Parents.

Thirdly, The most probable Methods, by Encouragements and Corrections, will be taken to reform the profligate Poor, and to convert the seditious Populace.

Fourthly, Profitably employ, in the most beneficial Manner, for *Great Britain's* common Good, all the capable Poor—And principally, from the Profits of their *then* Labour.

Fifthly, Enable our *British* Merchants to under-Sell all *Europe* in Foreign Markets.

Sixthly, Make the *Fishery*, and its Freight, much cheaper to us, than they now are, or ever can be, to the *Dutch*.

Seventhly, Erect many publick Grainaries, and keep Corn therein at 12 d. per Quarter, per Ann. and thereby prevent our Money from being exported, in Times of Dearth, and plentifully supply our Poor with Bread, under such a Calamity.

Eighthly, Soon supply, both *Fleet* and *Army*, with well affected, and well disciplin'd, Volunteers, and most other Necessaries; without Pressing one Man, for either Sea, or Land Service.

Ninthly, Improve Husbandry, Gardening, and Forreſting, in all their reſpective Branches.

Tenthly, Gradually ſink our Poor-Rates, and gradually diſcharge ſome of our preſent Taxes, upon Candles, Coals, Soap, and many other Neceſſaries of Life.

Eleventhly, Raiſe the Rents of our Lands, and enable the Tenants to pay their Rents, by lending them Money upon their Corn, laid up in the Grainaries, and thereby prevent their ſelling their Corn when too cheap.—

Twelfthly, Supply the Poor upon Pawns, at one fourth of the Charge they now pay, upon the like Occaſions.

Thirteenthly, Erect publick Hospitals for keeping Incurables, and thereby prevent their being publickly expoſ'd to Miſery and Want, which unhappy Objects, often occaſion great Miſchiefs to Women with Child.

Laſtly, Give unto theſe Subſcribers a much greater Gain, *per Cent. per Ann.* for their Money herein advanc'd, than is now made, of the like Sums in any private Trade, or by the Bank, Eaſt India, or African Company, or any other incorporated Body, South-Sea only excepted.

How all thoſe before mention'd, and many more National Benefits, may, in my humble Opinion, be produc'd, from the judicious Employment of the now Idle, but Capable Poor, under this propos'd Corporation—I do purpoſe ſhortly to publiſh in that Scheme, which is to be conſider'd by the Subſcribers, and then laid before the Lord-Mayor, and Court of Aldermen. And if it ſhall then appear, that ſuch a Corporation, with the before mention'd Pro-

Proportion of the Poor-Rates, and Occasional Charities, may probably render our now *Miserable, Idle, Unprofitable, and Criminal Poor*, so beneficial to their *King and Country* — I do not Question, but every Gentleman, who shall be thereof convinc'd, will readily joyn in promoting such a pious and charitable Design.

The Lord Chief Justice *Hales*, in a Discourse upon Relieving and Employing the Poor; observes, That

A due Care of the Poor is an Act of great Piety, towards Almighty God.

An Act of the greatest Humanity among Men. And,

Of great Civil Prudence, and Political Wisdom in relation to the State — But, saith his Lordship, as things now are, our *Populousness*, which might be made the greatest Blessing a Kingdom can have, becomes a Burden to the Nation, by breeding up whole *Races, Families, and Generations*, in a meer Trade of *Idleness, Thieving, and begging*, and a barbarous kind of Life, which must in time prodigiously increase, and overrun the whole Face of the Kingdom, and eat out the very Heart thereof — This was writ by his Lordship about Fifty Years past, and since that time our Poor-Rates, in many Places, are double to what they then were.

Sir, When I consider that no Nation, upon Earth, can make their *Capable Poor* so profitable as we may do; and yet, in Fact, we not only suffer several Hundred Thousand *Capable Poor*, to live in Idleness, but we annually pay some Hundred Thousand Pounds per Ann. towards maintaining such *Capable Poor*. — It puts me in mind of that young Man in the Fable, whose Father,

upon his Death-Bed, told this Son, That he should leave him Two Millions in ready Money, but then charg'd him, that he should take Care to keep it, — Often repeating that Injunction. — Son, Be sure keep it ; this young Man, upon the Death of his Father, hir'd (at a great expence) many arm'd Men, both Night and Day, to guard his Treasure. — And when his Friends advis'd him to lay it out in Land, or to employ it in Trade, or to lend it out upon good Security, — He refus'd to do either, because his dear Father had often charg'd him with his dying Breath, to keep it ; — To which his Friends reply'd, That by such an Injunction, his Father only meant, that he should not squander it away, but improve it by Trading, purchasing, or lending upon good Security. — In either of which Cases he might add many Thousand Pounds per Ann. to his Estate. Whereas, on the contrary, by locking it up, and paying such a prodigious, constant Charge to guard his unemploy'd Gold ; he made such an Idle Treasure, which his Father left him as a Blessing, not only unprofitable to him, but so expensve, by his Guards, as, in time, that Charge would swallow up the Treasure it self. —

Sir, Whether by suffering such numbers of Capable Poor, which Heaven intends as one of the greatest Blessings, to become not only unprofitable to the Nation, but a prodigious annual Expence to the Kingdom, which very Poor, might, under a Judicious Management, add some Millions Sterling per Ann. to our National Wealth. — I say, whether herein, we do not fall under the Moral Application of that Fable ; I do humbly submit to the Consideration of my Superiours.

Some Gentlemen, upon reading (in a former Discourse upon this Subject) the many before-mention'd

mention'd National Benefits, which are promis'd, as the probable effects, of the Judicious Employment of the Poor, under this propos'd Corporation. — They have been pleas'd to say, That those Things are *too great Blessings* to be expected from this design'd Corporation. — But I desire those Gentlemen to consider this one great Truth, *viz.* That,

There is nothing, which Human Power can effect, but may be accomplish'd, by (and with God's Blessing upon) the united Wisdom and Power of the *King, Lords and Commons of Great Britain*, when in Parliament assembled. — And no less Authority than *that*, can grant those Powers, Privileges, Immunities and Revenue, which are necessary to give being to this Corporation. — And I desire it may be farther consider'd, That no *new Tax* is expected for the Performance of those Great Things ; but only necessary Powers *Judiciously*, and *Justly* to apply part of the present Revenue (relating to the Poor) to those *Charitable and Beneficial Purposes*, for which the whole was given. — Whereas all the *Poor-Rates* do not (at present) answer any one of those good Intentions, for which they were granted ; as hath herein before been particularly prov'd.

Sir, This one thing I desire you particularly to observe, *viz.*

That if this Corporation can make one Million of *Capable Poor*, do more Work, and that Work much better, than one Million and half of such Poor now do, in any part of the World — Then, by these Means only, this Corporation will add Five Hundred thousand Peoples Labour to *Great Britain's National Wealth*. — And this great addition

addition in *Art* and *Industry*, may be well valu'd at some Millions Sterling per *Ann.*

Every Artist may be well thought to be the best Judge in his own Business. — Now, I will be oblig'd to produce it under the Hands of some of the most skilfullest in all Branches of the *Woollen, Linnen, Silken, and Cotton-Manufactures*, and in all parts of the *Iron*, and other *Metal-line Manufactures*, and in all Branches of the *Wooden Manufactures*. — That (in that Scheme which I shall humbly propose) Two Thousand Artists shall do more Work, and that Work much berter than three Thousand now do in any other part of the World. — But no private Person, is capable of putting such Methods in practice, unless it be one who shall never want *Men* to work, *Materials* to work upon; *Money*, upon all necessary Occasions, to lay out, and a *Market* to take off what he shall make; and I believe very few, if any private Persons are, in Trade, blest with those Four before-mention'd Qualifications, viz. never to want,

Men, Money, Materials, or a Market; but I hope to prove, That this propos'd Corporation, always possessing those Four great Blessings, will thereby enable our *British Merchants* to give Laws to the Trade of *Europe*.

I do believe, That some Gentlemen, may say, what others have done, viz. that I am very opiniated and presumptuous, in pretending to know, much better than our numerous Laws have enacted:

How all Incapable Poor Britons may be comfortably maintain'd: And,

How the Capable Poor may become profitable to the Nation.

But

But before I am condemn'd as Presumptuous, I desire them to consider this *one general Truth*, viz. That

An ordinary Capacity, with an industrious Application, for many Years to the studying of one particular Subject, in the studying whereof, great Assistan-ces from Men and Books were given; may probably discover such material Truths, relating to that Sub-ject, as a Tenfold larger Capacity, in some few Days study only, and without many of those Assis-tances, which the other had, did not find out.

And I desire, that they would give Credit to those following particular Truths: viz. That

I have read, and for many Years consider'd, the many Proposals upon this Subject, formerly made by some ingenious Gentlemen. And I have also read, and consider'd, those numerous Laws, and some other Bills, which never past into Laws, concerning the Poor—— And I have often discours'd many ingenious Gentle-men, and some of the most skilful Mechanicks, upon this Subject—— From all which I have been well inform'd, what hath been *materially objected*, against any of those former Schemes for employ-ing the Poor—— And, by such Informations, I have known how to avoid all those Methods, for employing the Poor, which have been mate-rially objected against—— And I have from hence been the better inform'd. —

How all the capable Poor, may be so profit-ably employ'd, as to advance every General Interest, of both Land and Trade, without hurting any National Interest whatsoever.

Sir, I do confess, I study'd this Matter ma-ny Years, before I could discover, How all the capable, but now idle Poor, might be employ'd,
without

without depriving the now Industrious Poor of any part of their Work or Wages.— And at length I found out, how many Millions of Idle Poor, had we so many, might be so well employ'd, as to become *happy* in themselves, and *profitable* to their Country; and that by such their Employment, the industrious Poor should be always kept in full Employment, and receive better Wages, than are now paid, in any other Kingdom or State in *Christendom*, for the like Services.

When, in Conversation, I have sometimes asserted, That the Price of *Wool*, and *Wages* may be kept up, and yet our Merchants enabled to undersell all *Europe* in Foreign Markets. This many Merchants and Gentlemen have thought impossible to be done.— But I will be oblig'd, under the hazard of the *Lacedemonian* Law, against ridiculous Projects, to make this plainly appear, whensoever a proper Authority shall require the same.

That *Lacedemonian* Law did Enact, That,

If any Person, not Member of their Senate, would make any general Proposals to the State; he was oblig'd to bring the *Proposals* in one Hand, and an *Halter* in the other; and if his Project was *Rational*, and for the general Good of the State, he was generously Rewarded; but if his Design was impracticable, or ridiculous, or to the prejudice of the State, *Then* that presumptuous Projector, was to be hang'd in his own Halter.—

Sir, Under this great Hazard would I make the Proposal, *How Wool*, and *Wages* may be kept up, and yet the Merchant enabled (by the judicious Employment of the now idle Poor) to under-sell all *Europe*, in Foreign Markets. Ex-

Experience proves, That most Performances are receiv'd, according to that Opinion which the World hath of their Authors ; and where an Hatred or Contempt, is (tho' unjustly) taken up against an Author, no Arguments from him, will make any impression upon Persons so prejudiced ; for their prejudices against the Author, do prevent such Considerations of his Arguments, as are necessary to work a Conviction. As a disagreeable *Vehicle* will prevent, the kindly Operation of the most proper *Physick* ; for the Stomach (from its Aversion to that *Vehicle*) will soon eject, both *Vehicle* and *Physick*, and not suffer it to remain so long in the Stomach, as was absolutely necessary to work a Cure. *Histories*, both *Sacred* and *Civil*, give many Instances to prove, that *Truths* (of the greatest Consequences) have been rejected with Scorn, from those undeserved Prejudices, which have been taken up against their Authors. — *But it would be happy for the World, if the Reason of the Thing, was submitted to, from whomsoever it comes.* That *Legislator*, whom God himself had inspired, followed the Counsel of an Heathen, in Matters of the greatest Importance, *Exod.* 18. 17. And a little City was preserv'd from a powerful *Army*, by the Counsel of a poor Inhabitant ; but the Ingratitude of those then in Power, prov'd, that they themselves were scarce worth saving, *Ecc.* 9. 14, 15. And I can give an Instance to shew, where one of the greatest Statesmen in *Europe* (in that Age wherein he liv'd) submitted to the Judgment of a common Picklock Rogue, and in relation to Matters of State, and of that Consequence as, probably, then sav'd all *Europe*, from being enslav'd by *Spain*. And I can give ano-

ther Example to prove, that an experienc'd and brave *Admiral*, and many stout *Commanders*, thought a certain Project impracticable, and theretore resolv'd to make no Attempt; but by a common *Young Sailor*, were soon convinc'd of their Mistake, and, according to that Young Man's Scheme, succeeded in that Attempt. And I can prove by a third particular, That a *private Centinel*, upon the close of a Sermon, in the Church, convinc'd a very popular Preacher, That he was *mistaken* in his Doctrine, and very *unjust* in his *Application*; and that what the Doctor had condemn'd as a *Damnable Sin*, was, in Truth, an incumbent Duty, and by the Doctor himself must have been practis'd, upon the like Occasion. It would enlarge this Epistle, much beyond its intended brevity, to give the Relations at large, of these three last mention'd Instances; but I shall readily, by Conversation, satisfy any Gentleman's Curiosity, who shall, in proper Time and Place, desire to be very particularly inform'd, in Relation thereunto.

Sir, I have already too far exceeded that length which at first I intended; but I hope you will pardon this trouble, from

Sir, Your most Obedient, Humble Servant,

Laurence Braddon.

POSTSCRIPT.

S I R,

THOSE Subscribers have engag'd to raise *Four Millions Sterling*, (For *Employing the Poor*) when Authority shall permit their Subscriptions to be taken, and to be paid in such Proportions as, shall be thought necessary:— And when this *Beneficial Design* is actually put in Practice, for all *Great Britain*, it will admit of *Twenty Millions Sterling*: And *more per Cent. per Ann.* will be then got, both to the *Kingdom*, and to the *Subscribers*, by *Twenty Millions*, than by *Four Millions* to be apply'd within the Bills of Mortality, as will plainly appear to all such as shall consider that *Scheme*, (upon this Subject) which I shall shortly prepare for your Consideration: All the Subscribers do humbly beg, both you, and your Brethrens Assistance, in making such Alterations and Additions thereunto, as, upon mature Consideration shall appear Necessary.—

Sir, I shall beg leave to particularize some few Advantages more, besides those in *Pages 17 and 18* before mentioned, which will be the Consequences of establishing this desir'd Corporation, according to the *Scheme*, which for that Purpose will be humbly propos'd, viz. Within *Ten Years* after establishing this Corporation, even for the Bills of Mortality *only*, this Corporation will be oblig'd to build very convenient Colleges, for all the Poor Widows and Orphans of those Clergymen and Ministers, who shall have liv'd and dy'd within the Bills of Mortality—

And they will do the same for all *Great Britain*, when their Authority shall extend to the whole Kingdom.

They will, at the Expiration of those Ten Years, after such their Establishment, be oblig'd to receive, and provide all suitable Conveniences, for those Poor Women within the Bills of Mortality, who shall be ready to ly in, and whose Husband's Poverty can't provide for them, those Necessaries, which their then Circumstances require.

And they will do the same for all Poor Women, within *Great Britain*, when their Authority shall extend to the whole Kingdom.

And some few Years after this Corporation shall be establish'd for all *Great Britain*, they will be oblig'd to make proper Provision, for some hundred young Clergymen, each of which will then have, at least, to the value of Fifty Pounds, *per Ann.* And then this Corporation will be further oblig'd, to add Ten Pounds, *per Ann.* to one thousand Poor Livings, eight hundred whereof to be in that Part call'd *England*, and the remaining two hundred in *Scotland*.

This Corporation, by that propos'd Scheme, will make it the Interest of all the *Wool Proprietors*, in *Great Britain*, not to export their Wool to *France* or elsewhere. And then such a Law will do, what was promis'd from the late Peace
Execute it self.

For when their Obedience to such a Law, shall advance their Interest, that Advancement will be a better Security against their transgressing, than the severest Penalties would be, whilst a considerable Interest shall tempt them to offend — The Prevention of such a pernicious
Ex-

Exportation, will be of mighty Advantage to *Great Britain* in General. For

Every Shilling, which an *Owler* gets, by exporting *Wool* to *France*, is *Forty Shillings* loss to the Nation, as will be plainly prov'd in a Discourse, which will be shortly publish'd.

All Servant Men and Maids, who, within the Bills of Mortality shall be out of Place, will be then receiv'd, and for a few Hours work in a Day, will have Meat, Drink, washing and lodging, and according to their respective Merits will be recommended to proper Services—This will prevent their being oblig'd to live idly, and upon Expence, when out of Services, and thereby are often oblig'd to part with their very necessary Cloaths, for their more necessary Subsistence—And whilst out of Place, and under those Necessities, they often contract such Habits of Idleness, and other ill Qualities; and such ill Acquaintance, as makes many Whores, or Thieves, and sometimes both, and in many other Respects very vitious—Such Corruptions in Servants, often occasion many of those Robberies, and Burglaries, which are committed, in, and near the Bills of Mortality.

Sir, Such a Scheme (relating to the Poor) as humbly proposeth to reduce near *Forty* Statutes into *One*, will deserve to be well consider'd and digested, by Men of the best Capacity; and I do not Question, but all you *Gentlemen* (in the Commission of the Peace) which shall approve of such a Scheme, will readily give your Assistance herein, and joyn, with the Lord-Mayor, and Court of Aldermen, in a proper Application to the Regency, for obtaining such a Charter of Incorporation, as shall be judg'd necessary, in relation

tion to the Premises.— And when (upon considering that Scheme) it shall appear probable, that both *Publick* and *Private* Interest will be thereby promoted, any Sum may be rais'd, when Authority shall permit those Subscriptions to be taken.—

Sir, When I shall lay before you, and your Brethren (the Justices) the aforelaid Scheme, I shall then also communicate to you, an Abstract Account of all Laws, now in force, relating to the *Settling, Relieving, Reforming, and Employing the Poor*.— And also Abstracts of those Three Bills (relating thereunto) which in 1704, the House of *Lords* order'd to be Printed.— You shall then also see, what Sir *Matthew Hale*, Sir *Josiah Child*, Dr. *Davenant*, Mr. *Digory King*, Mr. *Thomas Fermin*, Mr. *Bellars*, and many more have writ upon this Subject, of *Relieving, and Employing the Poor*.— And by comparing them, with that Scheme, you, and your Brethren will be the better able to Judge what will be fit, to be added to, or alter'd in that Scheme.— But after you, and the rest of the Justices have read, and consider'd this Letter, I should be glad to have an opportunity of waiting upon some of them, before I deliver them that Scheme, because some things I would communicate to them relating to the intended Scheme, which I do not think fit to Print.—

Sir, If any of these Gentlemen, shall desire to Discourse me, upon this Subject, and signify the same, by a Penny-Post Letter, left for me at the *Amsterdam Coffee-House*, near the *Royal-Exchange*, I will wait upon them, when and where they shall appoint.

Sir,

Sir, This glorious Design is no *Party-Cause*, but hath a General, and (I hope) a Natural Tendency to allay those unhappy Divisions among *Protestants*, which have too-long afflicted this united Kingdom, and more than once, have brought us almost to the Brink of Ruin. — But *Herein* all *People* will be consider'd, only as *Members of the same Community*, and Subjects to the same *Glorious Sovereign*; and both *Whig* and *Tory*, *High-Church* and *Low-Church* — and the very *Papists* themselves, will readily receive all proper Relief, from this propos'd Corporation; which being countenanc'd by the *Legislature*, and from time to time always assisted by the *Ministry*, may probably produce all those before mention'd National Advantages, which will advance our most Gracious *Sovereign*, above all Crowns in *Christendom*, and make *Great Britain*,

The GLORY of EUROPE.

F I N I S.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

There will be shortly publish'd many Discourses, writ by several Persons, upon Relieving, and Employing the Poor, viz.

ONE writ by Sir Matthew Hale, once Lord Chief Justice of England: And another by Sir Josiah Child, and both stitch'd together, Price 3 d.

Our Present Charge made our Future Gain, or the now miserable, chargeable, and criminal Poor, made the Future Riches, Strength and Glory of Great Britain; stitch'd, one Shilling, bound Eighteen Pence.

An Abstract thereof, for 6 d.

The Children of the Poor, made a Treasure to the Rich. Price 6 d.

Abstracts of three Bills, which in 1704. were depending in Parliament, upon *Settling, Relieving, and Employing the Poor*. The first of these then pass'd the House of Commons, and that intended to comprehend Twenty Four Acts of Parliament, relating to the Poor, in one ———

The second of these was drawn by some of the then Judges, by Order of the House of Lords.— The third was drawn by the then Commissioners of Trade.— And all these Three, then order'd by the House of Lords to be printed at large.— Price 4 d.

There will be likewise printed, An Abstract Account of all Laws now in force, upon *Settling, Relieving, Employing, or Punishing the Poor*, in all Cases under Capital Punishments.

There will be also Abstracts printed of what was heretofore publish'd by many others, upon those Subjects, of *Relieving, and Employing the Poor*.

Any Gentlemen, who will put themselves to the trouble of comparing this, *intended Scheme*, with what hath been heretofore *enacted*, or writ, upon those Subjects, will be thereby the better able to Judge, wherein such a Scheme, is either defective, or will be beneficial above all former Proposals for *Relieving, Reforming, or Employing*

The P O O R.

